GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:320
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Hike in Prices of Fruits and Vegetables
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of vegetables and fruits including tomatoes and onions often shoot up in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the food inflation occurs due to low production which is not at par with the demand;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote the production of fruits and vegetables in the country to bring their prices under control and ensure remunerative prices to the farmers;

(e) whether the Government proposes to develop High Yield Variety (HYV) seeds of agricultural crops including tomatoes, onions and pulses and to increase their production; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) to (d): The price of vegetables and fruits, including tomatoes and onions vary according to changes in demand and supply conditions, which depend on crop seasonality, weather conditions, seasonality of demand etc. Movements in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of Food articles, vegetables and fruits including tomatoes and onion in 2016 are as under:-

Periods	Food articles	Vegetables	Fruits	Onion	Tomato
Jan, 2016	268.7	289.9	231.9	354.8	357.4
February, 2016	260.5	221.1	236.8	309.8	224.0
March, 2016	259.5	212.4	237.5	273.6	194.3
April, 2016	265.0	223.4	259.8	254.2	NA
May, 2016	271.1	253.9	259.8	247.9	NA
June, 2016	279.0	297.3	260.9	255.4	NA

NA:- Not available due to off season.
Continueâ€¦.2/-

The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented during XII Plan w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering all the horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables. The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops through coverage of area with improved cultivars, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, including insitu generation of organic inputs, Capacity building of farmers and technicians is also provided for adopting improved technologies.

Government is also implementing the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of agricultural and horticultural commodities, which are generally perishable in nature. The basic objective of MIS is to provide remunerative prices to the farmers in case of glut in production and fall in prices. The MIS is implemented on the specific request of the State Government/UT Administration willing to share loss with the Central Government on 50:50 basis (75.25 in case of North Eastern States).

The government has set up a Price Stabilization Fund for supporting market interventions by State Governments and Central Government agencies in case of rise of prices of price-sensitive commodities like onion and potatoes.

(e) & (f): Government is implementing a Sub-Mission for Seed and Planting Material (SMSP) under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) w.e.f. 01.04.2014 on all India basis through States/UT Departments of Agriculture, State Seed Corporations, State Seed Certification Agencies, State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, National Seed Corporation, etc. The main objective of the Sub-Mission is to develop/strengthen seed sector and to enhance production and multiplication of high

yielding certified/quality seeds of all agricultural crops and make these available to the farmers at affordable prices. It also seeks to put in place an effective system for protection of plant varieties, and to protect rights of farmers and plant breeders to encourage development of new varieties of plants.

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